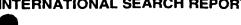
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT





A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C23C28/00 C23C C23C16/26 C23C16/02 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 C23C Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, INSPEC C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category 9 Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Α DE 100 18 143 A (BALZERS HOCHVAKUUM) 1,2,5,6, 8-10,12, 25 October 2001 (2001-10-25) 13,15 page 3, paragraph 19-28 page 9, paragraph 95 - page 11, paragraph 110 US 6 126 793 A (KOIKE RYOTA ET AL) Α 1,2,6, 3 October 2000 (2000-10-03) 8-10,12column 6, lines 1-7,16-22 column 18, line 29 - column 19, line 34 column 20, lines 1-26 column 20, line 53 - column 21, line 16 -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents : later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention *E* earlier document but published on or after the International document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or 'P' document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 6 October 2004 15/10/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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